GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2778
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2007
FREE LEGAL ADVICE TO LABOURERS
Murmu Shri Hemlal;Shakya Shri Raghuraj Singh

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently reviewed the settlement of disputed cases of workers of various categories, to make the Employees Provident Fund Organisation and Employees State Insurance Corporation as effective bodies and the programmes related to the welfare of workers in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of the steps taken by the Government to provide free legal advice to the poor labourers ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES)

(a)&(b) : Functioning of the Employees` Provident Fund Organization is regularly monitored/reviewed by the Central Board of Trustees, (Employees` Provident Fund) and appropriate suggestions/recommendations are made for efficient administration of the schemes framed under the Employees` Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952. Bhavishya Nidhi Adalats are organised by the field offices of the Organisation on a monthly basis to redress the grievances of members and remove difficulties if any.

In order to make the Scheme more effective for welfare of the workers, the Employees` State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has taken a number of steps viz. installation of a toll free helpline at its headquarters, setting up of facilitation centres in field offices etc.

Shikayat Adalats are conducted in all offices of ESI Corporation.In order to reduce the pendency of litigations an Amnesty Scheme has been launched w.e.f. 1st August, 2006 to 31st March, 2007.